United Nations S/2004/603

Security Council

Distr.: General
27 July 2004

Original: English

Letter dated 27 July 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Nigeria to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

In my capacity as the representative of the current Chairman of the African Union, I have the honour to transmit herewith the communiqué adopted by the Peace and Security Council of the African Union at its thirteenth meeting, held on 27 July 2004 at Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on the crisis in the Darfur region of the Sudan (see annex).

I should be grateful if the text of this letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Aminu Bashir **Wali**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Nigeria to the United Nations
Representative of the current Chairman of the African Union

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Annex to the letter dated 27 July 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Nigeria to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: English and French]

Communiqué of the thirteenth meeting of the Peace and Security Council

The Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union (AU), at its thirteenth meeting, held on 27 July 2004, adopted the following communiqué on the crisis in the Darfur region of the Sudan:

Council,

1. **Reiterates** its deep concern over the grave situation that still prevails in the Darfur region of the Sudan, in particular the continued attacks by the *Janjaweed* militia against the civilian population, as well as other human rights abuses and the humanitarian crisis;

2. **Underlines** the urgent need to implement decision AU/Dec.54(III) on Darfur, adopted by the 3rd Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the AU, held in Addis Ababa, from 6 to 8 July 2004, and which provides a framework for addressing the crisis. In this respect, Council **stresses** the urgent need for the Government of the Sudan (GoS) to expeditiously implement its commitment to neutralize and disarm the *Janjaweed* militia and other armed groups and to bring to justice the perpetrators of human rights abuses. Council also **reiterates** the need for the rebel forces to be cantoned at mutually agreed sites;

3. **Stresses** the need for the AU to continue to lead the efforts to resolve the crisis in Darfur and, in this respect, **welcomes** the support extended by the international community, including the UN Security Council. Council **calls** on the latter and all the AU partners to continue to support these efforts, including financial and logistical assistance to sustain the AU-led mission deployed in Darfur and to enhance its effectiveness;

4. **Calls upon** all parties, namely the GoS, the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) and the Sudan Liberation Movement/Army (SLM/A), to scrupulously comply with the Humanitarian Ceasefire Agreement of 8 April 2004 and to extend full cooperation to the Ceasefire Commission (CFC) and the military observers deployed in Darfur;

5. **Welcomes** the convening in Addis Ababa, on 15 July 2004, of a meeting between the parties and, in this respect, **regrets** that the JEM and the SLM/A leadership failed to attend the talks. Council **stresses** the need for a speedy resumption of the dialogue and **calls** on the parties to be represented at the highest level at the next round of the political talks, with a clear mandate, and to negotiate in good faith with the view to achieving a lasting solution to the Darfur conflict;

6. **Encourages** the Chairperson of the Commission and his Special Envoy for Darfur, Hamid El Gabid, to actively pursue their consultations with the parties to expedite the resumption and successful convening of the political dialogue. In this respect, Council **urges** the parties to agree, as soon as possible, on a general framework for the pursuit of the dialogue, including the agenda of the discussions and their venue;

7. **Appeals** to all Member States to fully back the ongoing efforts and, in this respect, **welcomes** the efforts of the Chairman of the AU, President Olusegun Obasanjo, in support of the search for a lasting solution to the conflict in Darfur;

8. **Takes note** of the progress made in the deployment of the military observers and the steps taken towards the deployment of the Protection Force, provided for by the Agreement of 28 May 2004 on the Establishment of the CFC and the Deployment of Military Observers, and whose mandate, as per the understanding reached during the 3rd Ordinary Session of the Assembly, includes the protection, within the capacity of the Force, of the civilian population. Council **welcomes** the decision by Nigeria and Rwanda to contribute troops for the Protection Force;

9. **Requests** the Chairperson of the Commission to prepare and submit to it, for consideration, a comprehensive plan on how best to enhance the effectiveness of the AU Mission on the ground, including the possibility of transforming the said Mission into a full-fledged peacekeeping mission, with the requisite mandate and size, to ensure the effective implementation of the Ceasefire Agreement, with particular emphasis on the disarmament and the neutralization of the *Janjaweed* militia, the protection of the civilian population and the facilitation of the delivery of the humanitarian assistance;

10. **Calls upon** the international community at large, including AU Member States that are in a position to do so, to provide the much-needed humanitarian assistance to the civilian population affected by the crisis. Council **further encourages** African humanitarian NGOs to contribute to the ongoing efforts and **requests** the Commission to extend full support to them;

11. **Requests** the Commission to submit to it a comprehensive assessment of the situation in Darfur, including the steps taken to disarm and neutralize the *Janjaweed* militia, to facilitate the delivery of humanitarian assistance, to bring to justice the perpetrators of human rights violations, as well as the violations of the ceasefire and the status of the political dialogue;

12. **Decides** to remain seized of the matter and **requests** the Commission to report regularly on the situation, including the simultaneous efforts to be deployed to find a lasting solution to the conflict.